REMARKS

Claim 1-20, 22-29 and 31-42 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Claims 1, 11, 20, 29, 40 and 42 have been amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1-20, 22-29 and 31-42 are rejected as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on pages 2-3 of the Final Office Action. Claims 1, 20 and 29 have been amended to fix typographical errors as noted by the Examiner, i.e., changing "schedules rules" to "schedule rules" . Moreover, claims 11, 40 and 42 have been amended to remove the phrase "such as." Therefore, withdrawal of the 112 rejections is requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-20, 22-29 and 31-42 are rejected as being unpatentable over Davies (U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2003/0033191). It is submitted that claims 1, 20 and 29 at the very least are patentable and non-obvious over Davies. For example, Davies does not teach or suggest the use of "schedule rules" which specify one or more conditions under which the activity is initiated for execution, but not automatically executed, based on workflow relevant data, independent of control flow dependencies. Moreover, Davies does not teach or suggest a data triggered workflow engine that, upon the occurrence of a predetermined event, will evaluate the schedule rules based on the workflow relevant data to initiate one or more activities for execution, whereby execution of an initiated activity is at the option of a workflow participant and not automatically executed.

The Examiner contends that Davies teaches in paragraph [0127] the claimed "schedule rules" as part of an activity specification for each activity. However, Davies merely states that "the invention manages Schedule information based on the duration of Resource Assignments

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and any relationships between Phases and between Deliverables within a Lifecycle." Other than the mere out-of-context reference to the word "Schedule" the Examiner has not explained with any reasonable degree of specificity the basis for construing these teachings by Davies as being the same or similar to "schedule rules" which specify one or more conditions under which the activity is initiated for execution based on workflow relevant data, independent of control flow dependencies. Notwithstanding, claims 1, 20 and 29 have been further amended to clarify the differences of the claimed subject matter over Davies, where the claims are amended to essentially recite that *schedule rules specify one or more conditions under which the activity is initiated for execution, but not automatically executed* and *whereby execution of an initiated activity is at the option of a workflow participant and not automatically executed.*

The Examiner cites paragraphs [0020], [0023] and [0292] of Davies as support for supposedly teaching the claimed subject matters regarding *evaluation of the schedule rules based on the workflow relevant data to initiate one or more activities for execution, whereby execution of an initiated activity is at the option of a workflow participant.* But the Examiner again offers no reasonable explanation to support reliance on the cited sections as teaching that an activity in a workflow process can be initiated for execution, but where execution of the initiated activity is optional (not automatically executed). Indeed, Davies merely teaches in paragraphs [0020] and [0021] a "state based workflow" where objects are created in a state and will transition between states based on business rules. However, the Examiner has not shown that Davies teaches a "business rule" that is the same or similar to a "schedule rule" within the context of the claimed inventions.
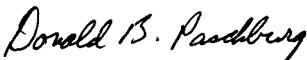
Moreover, the Examiner cites paragraph [0292] of Davies as teaching that "workflows are optional". In proper context, Davies essentially teaches that *a user can associate Workflows*

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with a Deliverable object, for example, but that such workflow can be required or optional.

However, this teaching by <u>Davies</u> does not disclose or suggest a data-triggered workflow process wherein an activity can be initiated for execution (according to conditions specified by a schedule rule), but that such initiated activity is not automatically executed, but can be executed at the option of the user. In proper context, <u>Davies</u> merely teaches that workflows can generally be required or optional, but <u>not</u> that specific activities within a workflow process can be initiated for execution, but executed at the option of the user, within the context of the claimed inventions.

For at least the above reasons, claims 1, 20 and 29 are patentable over the cited combination of references. Moreover, all pending dependent claims are patentable over the cited combination of references at least by virtue of their dependence from respective base claims 1, 20 or 29. In any event, Applicant respectfully contends that the dependent claims are patentable over the cited reference in their own right.

Respectfully submitted,

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